Construction of National Pilgrim Centre at Rameswaram (TN)

2110. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to construct a National Pilgrim Centre at Rameswaram;

(b) is so, what is the Centre's and State's share towards construction of the above mentioned Centre;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal to this effect from the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(d) by which date the funds are likely to be released for this project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for development of Tourist infrastructure based on specific prioritized proposals received. On the basis of consultation held with the State Government of Tamil Nadu an amount of Rs. 50.00 Lakhs has been prioritized for construction of Tourist Receiption Centre at Rameswaram during 1999-2000.

Development of Kanyakumari

2111. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal for integrated development of Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, what is the Centre's and State's share towards the above project;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal to the effect from the State Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(d) by which date funds are going to be released to start the work?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current financial year 46 projects have been prioritised by the Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Government for Central financial assistance for an amount of Rs. 954.60 lakhs for the State Government of Tamil Nadu. Out of these four projects for Central financial assistance of Rs. 148.00 lakhs have been prioritised for development of tourism in Kanyakumari.